



# Comment Period-Hearing Notice

## Proposed Amendments to the Well Construction and Licensing Rules, Chapters 173-160 and 173-162 WACs

from Ecology's Water Resources Program

**Comments must be submitted by 5:00 pm on October 6, 2006**

**Public hearings begin at 7:00 pm**

**Tuesday, Sept. 26**

Big Bend Comm College  
7662 Chanute St. NE  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
Room 1870 A/B

**Wednesday, Sept. 27**

Department of Ecology  
Headquarters  
300 Desmond Dr.  
Lacey, WA 98503  
Auditorium

**Thursday, Sept. 28**

University Center in  
Everett Station  
3201 Smith Ave.  
Suite 200  
Everett, WA 98201  
Room 315

Visit the Well  
Construction Web site:  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wells/wellhome.html>

You can join the Water  
Resources listserv at:  
<http://listserv.wa.gov/archive/water-resources.html>

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) will hold three public hearings to receive written and oral comments on the proposed amendments to the Well Construction and Licensing Rules, Chapter 173-160 and 173-162 WAC. At the hearings the public will have the opportunity to submit oral and written comments. **Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 pm on October 6, 2006.**

### Background

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was established by the 1993 legislature to assist the department in the development and revision of rules; the development of training and licensing criteria; and changes to local county delegated authority. The TAG consists of drillers, representatives of local and state health departments, engineers, and scientists. In addition, the 2005 legislature enacted changes to the drilling statute (RCW 18.104) which will be incorporated into the two rules.

### Purpose

In order to meet legislative requirements adopted in April 2005, Ecology is modifying Chapter 173-160 WAC and Chapter 173-162 WAC to remain consistent with RCW 18.104. The statute also adds definitions for Ground Source Heat Pump Borings and Grounding Wells that will soon become regulated.

Other changes to the Washington Administrative Code were proposed by the TAG and the drilling community to remain current with the changes in drilling technology and to clarify existing rules.

### Proposed amendments

Specific rule amendments will address the process and criteria for evaluation of continuing education classes, conducting annual performance reviews on those counties delegated to inspect wells, establishing new categories of licenses for drillers that meet specific requirements and adjust current licensing fees.

The rule amendments will also include the specific requirements for the regulation of Ground Source Heat Pump Borings and Grounding Wells; clarification of Well Construction definitions and terms; and updating specific materials and methodologies used in the construction of water and resource protection wells to remain consistent with current drilling technology.

## Public hearing schedules

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Ecology will hold public hearings in Moses Lake, Lacey, and Everett to receive comments on the proposed amendments to the well construction and licensing rules. All attendees will have the opportunity to provide comments and suggestions on the proposed amendments.

**The public hearing sessions begin at 7:00 pm.**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2006**

Big Bend Community College  
7662 Chanute Street NE  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
Room 1870 A/B

**Wednesday, September 27, 2006**

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## For more information

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For more information on the proposed amendments, please contact Richard Szymarek at (360) 407-6648 or E-mail: [rszy461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:rszy461@ecy.wa.gov).

Written comments must be submitted by **5:00 pm, October 6, 2006**, to Richard Szymarek, Water Resources Program, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600, or faxed to (360) 407-7162.

If you would like additional information on the public hearings, please call Judy Beitel at (360) 407-6878. You may visit the Web site at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wells/wellhome.html>

*If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Water Resources Program at (360) 407-6600. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call (877) 833-6341.*